

BAM Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement

A General Anarchist Union in the Boston Area

**ALWAYS REMEMBER, REAL
CHANGE LIES IN OUR HANDS**



**IT'S TIME TO FINISH THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

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The American Revolution Failed.

It was a popular rebellion for self-determination, but it ended in an increasingly authoritarian society with power and wealth consolidated into fewer and fewer hands. The colonial, mercantilist elite successfully redirected the popular rage against authority and economic injustice onto the British. The working poor on both sides of the Atlantic poured out their blood and energy until power over the colonies changed hands from one group of greedy rich white men to another. Things have only gotten worse since then.

Nevertheless, deep in our hearts, the spirit that called us to arms for freedom and self-determination remains. It's time to bring back the tradition of collective rebellion. In honor of our insurgent forbearers, and those whose deeds will bring about future revolutions, here's some forgotten history of successful crowd actions.

You've doubtless heard of the Boston Tea Party where, in 1773, Bostonians fought "taxation without representation," destroying crates of East India Company tea in what Voltairine de Cleyre, writing in 1909, described as, "the one sacrosanct mob in all history, to be revered but never on any account to be imitated." It was neither the first nor the last case of communal disobedience in the "Cradle of Liberty," a city whose daring working class sowed the seeds of the American Revolution. Densely populated neighborhoods facilitated speedy communication amongst the "rabble," on what was then a tiny peninsula, contributing to Boston's status as the #1 riot town of the 18th century.

Boston was fairly calm until 1684, when the British crown revoked the Massachusetts Bay Colony's charter, imposed imperial rule, and touched off a powder keg. Market and power structures shifted and the rift between rich and poor grew. In 1710, Andrew Belcher, Boston's wealthiest merchant and war profiteer, filled one of his ships with wheat—then in short supply—to be sent off to Queen Anne's War. On the night of April 30th, angry Bostonians boarded the ship and cut its rudder. A mob of 50 tried to force it ashore the next day. The few arrested were acquitted and presiding Judge Sewall wrote, "Twas an ill office in Capt. Belchar[sic] to send away so great a quantity of Wheat in this scarce time."

In 1737, Bostonians rioted and tore apart the town's markets. The rich created the markets to replace the decentralized traditional economy poor Bostonians preferred. On March 24, 1737, a "Number of Persons Unknown," dressed as clergy and disguising their faces, stormed the market at Dock Square and tore it apart. After demolishing the Dock Square Market, the crowd proceeded to the North Market and "saw'd asunder"

its posts. The crowd carried away all of the wood, then in short supply, to be used for fuel and building materials. Due to popular support for the action, no one was apprehended.

On November 17, 1747, Speaker of the House Thomas Hutchinson met with the legislature and colonial governor in the Town House about the riots against the previous day's 46 impressments, i.e. the kidnappings of working men to staff British warships. Thousands of Bostonians surrounded the building and forced their way in, Hutchinson wrote, "by throwing Stones and brickbatts in at the Windows, and having broke all the Windows of the lower floor... forcibly enter'd into it." That night, the mob burned a barge in the governor's yard and kidnapped British officers. Rioters held the city for three days. The militia never came; rather than quelling the unrest, they were part of it. On the third day, the governor secured the release of all 46 men and the riots subsided. Again, no arrests.

On February 15, 1851, Shadrach Minkins became the first Bostonian arrested under the Fugitive Slave Law. With no rights, he was to be returned to slavery that evening as an administrative matter. An hour later, hundreds of Bostonians crowded the court in support of Minkins. While in detention, Minkins' lawyer, Robert Morris, tried to buy time for the federal prisoner while conveying updates to the crowd outside until he flung wide the prison door. Twenty armed Black people stormed in past the shocked guards and carried the federal prisoner off on their shoulders. Minkins escaped to Canada and lived in freedom until his death. Morris was arrested on misdemeanor charges and later acquitted.

For decades, US residents have been fragmented and relatively passive, but the class distinctions that set Boston on the path to revolution in the 1700s are sharpening and global unrest is growing. Whether we like it or not, a new period of conflict is upon us. It's time we decide what we stand for, and prepare to fight for our freedom, our communities, and our lives. An elderly New England Revolutionary veteran told a young reporter that they fought because, "we always had governed ourselves and we always meant to." Comrades, it's time for a new American Revolution! •



The BAAM Newsletter

is the monthly publication of the Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement, a general union of Boston anarchists. Our publication aims to spread anti-authoritarian ideas and practices, and to report on the social struggles of workers, tenants, students, radicals, and others resisting the repression of the state, bosses, landlords and banks.

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Celebration of Queer Liberation!



By Dykonoclast

As prophesied in last year's BAAM Newsletter, the 2009 Dyke March had a larger, more fabulous anarchist contingent. Started in Washington, DC in 1993 by The Lesbian Avengers, the Dyke March is inclusive of all 'sexualities, genders, races, ages, ethnicities, sizes, economic backgrounds, and physical abilities,' and was created to provide visibility for queers who do not fit into mainstream Pride's target demographic of white, cisgendered (non-transgendered), affluent gay males. In the age of heavily corporatized Pride, the Dyke March remains a non-commercial event with refreshing, anti-assimilationist themes and a talent for choosing amazing speakers and musical acts.

At the pre-march rally, prison abolition, anti-racist and anti-capitalist messages were spotted. NEFAC, the Northeast Federation

of Anarchist Communists, was tabling with pro-queer, anti-capitalist literature. They also brought stacks of pink postcards addressed to the remaining two incarcerated of the New Jersey 4, originally 7; the misfortune of these Black lesbians who, in 2006, were street harassed and attacked and then jailed for defending themselves, reminds us how interconnected all forms of oppression are. Dyke March participants wrote messages of support to Patreese Johnson and Renata Hill on the cheery pink cards and a member of the Boston Anarchist Black Cross contributed a book of stamps to mailing the stacks of cards to their beleaguered recipients.

When it came time for the thousand strong crowd to march, about a dozen of us comprised a spirited and fabulous pink and black contingent. With pink and black flags and an amazing banner that read 'QUEERS ARE

REVOLTING!' we marched alongside our fellow queers and allies occupying the streets as far as the eye could see in either direction. Favorite signs spotted include, 'Avid vagitarian,' 'I may not go down in history, but I will go down on your sister,' 'My vegetarian girlfriend tastes great!' and 'If I wanted cock I'd get a rooster!' Favorite chants: 'out of the closet, into the streets!' '1 in 10 is not enough; recruit, recruit, recruit!' '1, 2, 3, 4, we are dykes and we can count! 5, 6, 7, 8, GAAAAAAAY!!!' And the chosen chant of the pink and black contingent, 'We're here! We're queer! We're anarchists, we fucking rule!'

The most unsettling aspect of the march to the pink and black contingent was the sash-wearing band of 'peace-keepers' who were there to make sure all the dykes stayed in line, confined in the permitted zones, and didn't get too rowdy. After all, it's not as though the rights we enjoy today were gained by people being unruly and breaking rules. It's not as though, in a queer bar

40 years ago, historically pivotal riots broke out, led by impoverished trans youth of color to defend themselves against the police and the repressive society that tells us we can't be who we are or love whom we love. Nope. Apparently we can achieve liberation by asking our oppressors nicely.

As much fun as was had, as high as spirits were, and as inspiring a speech as writer and performer Jaclyn Friedman gave, my mind is still buzzing with both the policed nature of the event and a remark I overheard from a random participant. 'Dyke March? This is a lesbian walk.' •

ASSAULT RIFLES TO HIT THE STREETS OF BOSTON?

By Paul

The Boston Police Department has in its possession 200 military grade M-16 assault rifles. If Miller Thomas, head of the Boston Police Detective Benevolent Society gets his way, we will start seeing patrol officers, detectives, and harbor police armed like soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Though they are not yet armed with the high-powered automatic weapons, not everyone is in support of giving these weapons out to officers on the streets. Community groups like Project RIGHT in Roxbury and TenPoint Coalition, as well as Mayor Thomas Menino and some police officials, have already come out against putting these weapons out on the

street, saying that the department has enough firepower already. The BPD's specially equipped SWAT teams are armed with assault rifles, which were given to them for free from the military, and will be shifting from automatic to semi-automatic rifles, according to the Boston Globe. Why the military gave these weapons to the BPD is still unknown.

The M-16 rifle's maximum range is over 10,000 feet; over two miles. That being said, if a police officer got into a shootout in Savin Hill in Dorchester, the bullet could reach as far as South Station in downtown Boston. Bullets can penetrate things like car doors, bus sides and wooden doors up to a half-

mile, putting innumerable people in danger. This issue has yet to be raised by the Boston Globe or Associated Press, both of which have reported on the acquisition of these assault weapons by the BPD. The BPD says it needs these rifles to combat situations where they would face people with assault weapons. Other cities that arm their police with assault rifles have claimed the same reason.

The Chicago Police Department has armed its officers with M-4 assault rifles since October of 2008, claiming that it was needed to combat gangs armed with other sorts of assault weapons. Though between 2003-2007 there were 25 million 911 calls, not once did a police officer come under fire from an assault weapon according to the Huffington Post. Here we see that the police department lacks evidence to support its need for assault rifles in the hands of officers, and even

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flagrantly supplies misinformation to the press to win public support for its plan under the guise of "safety in the neighborhoods."

Edward Davis, commissioner of the BPD, said he supports putting these weapons on the streets, though he couldn't promise that every officer would be trained with them. Menino declared he would block any rifles hitting the streets. The police department ordered these rifles over a year ago, when the city was cutting programs such as youth sports and violence prevention, knowing that training officers and buying ammunition would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. The MBTA spent \$13,000 purchasing M-4 assault rifles, while only guaranteeing four hours of training for the transit police who would be armed with them in crowded train cars, stations and buses.

As of press time, the BPD had announced that Governor Patrick suspended the program pending further review. This comes after 82 Massachusetts police departments acquired over 1,000 assault weapons. How the police got these weapons, and their plans to deploy them remain secret. •

BAAM News Blurbs

Prison Time for Gay Bashers Won't Make us Safer

By Jason Lydon

[Originally appeared in Bay Windows, June 11, 2009]

I am deeply saddened that the response and coverage of the Brandao case is so short sighted [See "Backlash to lenient sentence in gay bashing case," Bay Windows, June 4]. Sentencing gay bashers to prison terms, short or long, will not make our communities safer. It is tragic and appalling that Brandao attacked queers on the street; I know how that fear feels. However, I also know that prison does not fix the problems of our society, rather it compounds violence and provides a misdirected sense of justice. Should we allow Brandao to now have access to incarcerated queers (as we are disproportionately impacted by incarceration) and release his violence on them? The comments made by Gary Briggs stating that if the attack had been against Black people or women then the punishment would have been more harsh simply shows what a giant lack in understanding many people have of the criminal (in)justice system. The judicial system is certainly homophobic but do not forget that it is also inherently racist and sexist. Let us please use this time to figure out what real justice looks like rather than turn to a system that breeds violence and harms us. Protest the judge's decision but protest the whole system and stop calling for prison time! •



"The world is watching," Obama tells Iran, while the US House of Representatives and Senate pass resolutions condemning an official Iranian crackdown against opposition protests.

Riots Rock Iran

By Joseph Caye

At least 17 Iranians have been killed by security forces since the fraudulent election in Iran on June 12. Among them, Neda Soltan, a protester who desired "freedom for all," was shot by a basij militiaman on a motorcycle. With the final moments of her life posted on the internet, she became the face of martyrdom for Iranians. The government barred all mosques from holding a mourning ceremony for her, had her family evicted from Tehran, and is claiming that she was shot by a fellow protester. Kaveh Alipour, a student, was shot in the head after leaving acting class. When Alipour's family tried to claim his body, they were told they owed a \$3,000 bullet fee. The morgue waived the fee after the family convinced them that all of Alipour's possessions didn't amount to \$3,000, and that Alipour's father is an Iran-Iraq War veteran. Many professors, students, and journalists are being rounded up and imprisoned (an Iranian human rights groups estimates over 2,000 people have been locked up). Despite Ayatollah Khatami's recent decree that leading demonstrators will be executed, more than 3,000 protesters, chanting "Where's my vote?," clashed with riot police in north Tehran on Sunday, showing that many Iranians will not be intimidated and threatened by their own government. Police responded to the demonstrators with tear gas and beatings. In an attempt to pacify the dissenters, the Guardian Council ordered a recount of 10% of the ballots on Monday. In some instances, the recount yielded even more votes for the incumbent Ahmadinejad than the initial count. Omidvar Rezai, brother to third place candidate Mohsen Rezai, reported on his website that a previous recount of 10,000 votes showed that more than 70 percent of the ballots were "written with the same pen and same handwriting." •

Globe Guild Takes on NY Times

By Jeff Reinhardt

The New York Times Company announced plans to sell the Boston Globe as well as the Worcester Telegram & Gazette on the heels of a large dispute between Times management and the Boston Newspaper Guild. The Newspaper Guild, which represents over 700 employees at the Globe, voted down a deal from Times management to solidify pay and benefit cuts to all its employees on June 8th. The guild was the only of the Globe's seven major unions to reject the cuts. The other six unions combined accepted \$10 million in cuts this spring.

Since June 8th the management at the NY Times Co. has put another similar deal on the table to cut \$10 million of the Globe's budget, mostly from employee pay and benefits including the elimination of lifetime job guarantees for 170 employees. The union is set to vote on this deal July 20th. However, now the NY Times Co. has set a date of July 8th for prospective buyers to submit their bids. The new owners of the Globe and Telegram would take on over \$59 million in pension liabilities and the Globe was projected to lose \$85 million this year. Prospective buyers include Celtics owner Stephen Pagliuca, and Stephen Taylor, part of the same family that originally sold the Globe to the NY Times Co. for \$1.1 billion in 1993. •



"The whole world is watching," Anarchists chant as police use pepper spray and batons against protesters outside of the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver.

Fathers' Day Protest Against Raids

by Sublett

On June 21, Fathers' Day, nearly 40 people gathered outside the South Bay House of Corrections to protest the continued raids and deportations of immigrants by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Many arrested immigrants are held at South Bay for long periods prior to being deported. The action was called by the Resist the Raids Network, a new organization dedicated to battling repression of immigrants.

Demonstrators marched up and down passed the jail for half an hour, chanting slogans such as "ICE, ICE, get out of the way, Happy Fathers' Day!" while prisoners inside waved and displayed signs from their windows. Unfortunately, the impact of the protest was muted by a lack of noise-makers and banners, and turnout was reduced due to schedule conflicts with services at the Arlington Street Church and the Community Church of Boston, but organizers promised more and better-organized actions at South Bay in the future. •

More Violent Repression in Oaxaca

Violence continues in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, where a 6-month Popular Assembly-based uprising almost removed corrupt, repressive governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz in 2006 before being crushed by federal police and soldiers. In June 2009, police and paramilitaries assassinated Sergio Martínez Vásquez, a taxi driver, and Agustín Ríos was beaten nearly to death and forced into hiding. Both are prominent members of the Committee in Defense of the Rights of the People (CODEP), an organization that works with the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca (APPO) which led the 2006 uprising. CODEP, a 28 year old group that aids prisoners and victims of repression, is a primary target of Ruiz Ortiz's violence. •

World's Richest School Lays off 275

On June 25th, 50 workers, students, professors, and allies rallied in front of the John Harvard statue in Harvard Yard, protesting 275 layoffs announced on the 23rd. The University's financials took a hit this year, but with a \$28.7 billion endowment, it remains the richest in the world. Victims of the cutbacks spoke to the crowd, including a library worker who lost her job and her Harvard affiliated housing.

"This is just the beginning! We're going to make a hell of a lot of noise!" promised Geoff Carens, clerical worker and organizer for the No Layoffs Campaign. Alyssa Aguilera from the Harvard Student Labor Action Movement (SLAM) said regardless of summer vacation, students would stand with the workers: "There is not going to be silence on this campus!" After the speakers, the crowd marched to the administration buildings. Protesters accused Harvard's elite of greed for laying off workers while taking raises themselves. "Goldman Sachs and Citigroup run Harvard... and they're giving themselves bonuses," said Admissions worker Phoebe Eckfeldt. •

Bail-out Bonuses and Raises at Goldman Sachs, Citigroup

According to the Wall Street Journal and the UK Guardian, Goldman Sachs, which received \$12.9 billion in bailout money, will award their top executives with the largest bonuses in the company's 140-year history. The firm denies this, and as company spokesman Ed Canaday says, "We won't know what our compensation benefit number is until the end of the fourth quarter... December." To avoid stipulations attached to the federal money, Goldman Sachs began paying back bailout loans, returning \$10 billion by June 22nd. "Goldman's decision to return the bailout money leaves it free to whatever it wants - even though millions of Americans are struggling to make ends meet," says New York Daily News writer, Corky Siemaszko.

Instead of bonuses, Citigroup, which received \$45 billion in bailout money, will "raise base salaries of its employees," according to CNN Money staff writer, Karina Frayter. These raises may be as much as 50%. •



Police Control Honduras Streets after Military Coup

Military Coup Unseats Honduran President

On Sunday, June 28, 2009, a military coup removed the democratically elected leftist president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, and flew him to Costa Rica. The coup derailed a national vote on a constitutional reform assembly to extend Zelaya's term. The leader of the coup, Romeo Vasquez, graduated from the infamous School of the Americas—now called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation—the Georgia institute responsible for the trainings of many Latin American death squads, torturers and dictators. While the European Union and a coalition of Latin American governments have denounced the coup, according to Reuters, "Obama's statement urged Hondurans to resolve the dispute peacefully but did not explicitly call for Zelaya's reinstatement as president."

Venezuela President Hugo Chavez vowed to 'act militarily' after the removal of his ally, President Zelaya, the arrest of the Cuban Ambassador, and the beating of the Venezuelan ambassador during the coup. •

The MTA is Dead: Long Live the MTA?

by Jake Carman

On June 18th, the Massachusetts State Legislature, as part of the new budget, tried to reform the state's outdated and inefficient transportation system. For years, residents complained about the poor services and high costs of the Massachusetts Turnpike and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) subway system. The new budget abolishes the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority (MTA), makes some changes to the MBTA, and puts the pike and most of the state's transportation bureaucracy, including the Registry of Motor Vehicles, in the hands of a new Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). These changes, however, only stave off the proposed pike toll and T fare hikes for one year, and MassDOT won't abolish nor decrease the tolls and T fares, nor improve services. In fact, the new budget calls on Massachusetts residents to foot the bill for the government's inefficiency, corruption and wasteful spending. As House Republican Leader Brad Jones said, "this budget will have a heavy dose of taxes, obviously some serious cuts and very little reform." The creation of a super-bureaucracy with more responsibilities is hardly a solution to the troubled Mass transportation system.

Edward Mason of the Boston Herald says the reform, which Governor Patrick signed on June 26th, is part of "a \$27.4 billion budget that hikes taxes nearly \$1 billion while slashing aid to cities and towns." The budget increases the sales tax from 5 percent to 6.25, adds an alcohol tax, and allows towns to raise local meal and lodging taxes. Beacon Hill expects these changes to net an estimated \$955 million.

Along with service cuts and tax hikes, the budget slashes MBTA employees' benefits and abolishes the MassPike unions. Meghan Chakrabarti of WBUR reports, "MBTA employees would lose lucrative health care perks and be forced into the state group insurance plan as of January 1." Karen Christie, leader of the Steelworkers Local 5696, told Chakrabarti, "The MassPike unions... will lose their jobs, lose their rights, lose their bargaining agreements... So they basically bust our union, totally."

The Massachusetts Turnpike, controversial since the beginning, divides our state in half from the New York border to Logan Airport. The Pike also connects the Commonwealth's three major cities—Boston, Worcester and Springfield.

The idea for the Pike began around 1948, when the State created various expressways and bypasses and the Federal Government began developing the Interstate Highway System. The Massachusetts General Court and Governor Dever created the MTA in 1952, and the Commissioner of Public Works, William F. Callahan, became chairman.

Construction began in 1955. By 1957, a



Traffic on the Mass Turnpike. Photo by commuter Jackie Gaithier.

four-lane highway connected Route 102 on the New York border to 128 in Weston. In 1959 the Berkshire Thruway connected the new highway to the New York State Thruway, but political and social turmoil stalled the construction of the road into Boston. The Pike finally reached Allston in 1964, and Downtown Boston in 1965. In 1991, as part of the Big Dig, Governor Weld extended the Pike to Logan Airport, creating the Ted Williams Tunnel.

In building the pike through our towns and neighborhoods, the MTA used eminent domain and a host of unsavory tactics to obtain parcels of land. As Edward William Brooke, the first African American to be elected U.S. Senator writes in his book, *Bridging the Divide*, "The (MTA) had often seized land from citizens without written notice, paying them

just one dollar, and defying them to sue the commonwealth if they objected...It gave new meaning to the term highway robbery." In this way, the MTA dug their concrete canal through cities and towns across the entire state. Brooke continues, "I heard stories of landowners who got eviction notices and within thirty days had to abandon their property to the state or find their furniture moved into the street. Many other states require such agencies to pay for land before taking it. Not Massachusetts."

In today's recession, the MTA has come under increasingly heavy criticism. Motorists point to constantly climbing tolls, attempts to coerce drivers into buying Speed Pass and other bank-sponsored, vehicle-tracking services by reducing the number of toll operators and creating long lines and heavy traffic, and the ugly fact that the Turnpike Authority had promised to abolish tolls once construction costs were paid off...which happened in the mid-80s.

Furthermore, according to Aaron Wasserman of the Daily News, a current "lawsuit argues the Turnpike Authority has wrongly turned the toll into a tax by using some of the money for parts of its operation beyond the Pike, while some drivers, particularly those on Interstate 93, use that highway and the Big Dig toll-free...nearly \$500 million of tolls had been spent on the Big Dig in the past three years."

Until it was abolished, the MTA controlled not only the Pike, but also the tunnels under Boston Harbor to East Boston, and it functioned not on state or federal government funding, but on the tolls, "air rights"—buildings constructed above the Pike, like the Sheraton Hotel and the Copley Place Mall—

advertising and service centers. According to the financial statement for June 2008 posted on MassPike.com, on page 39 in a section entitled "Schedule of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets," the MTA lists its total "Operating Revenues," which includes, among other things, "toll revenues" (\$410,566,000) "restaurants, concessions and service stations" (\$25,606,000) and "court fines," (\$8,069,000) for a total operating revenue of \$488,599,000. "Repair and Construction" accounted for only \$33,191,000 of the "Total operating expense" of \$525,533,000.

According to this document, the MTA netted more than 10-times the cost of repairs and construction in toll revenue alone. Yet, the pike continues to pile up debt. Not listed in this document are the salaries of the top



MTA officials, employees, and contractors. If residents pay taxes to the Commonwealth for basic roadwork, why should a “Semi-private” company, which charges tolls, air rights, and advertising, pay itself enough to accrue massive debt, especially considering motorists paid off the construction costs more than 20 years ago? What’s worse, as Chakrabarti points out, “While the Turnpike Authority could soon be gone, its \$2 billion of Big Dig debt will not be forgotten. MassDOT inherits it.”

People in Massachusetts are angry, and rightfully so. With our cost of living rising, and our unions, wages, benefits and services being slashed by the politicians and the corporate bosses they gladly serve, it’s a wonder there isn’t more rage. At 11:20am on June 20, an MBTA bus driver on the 70 line, undoubtedly stressed by the news of the changes to his healthcare, challenged a passenger frustrated with poor MBTA service to “wait ‘til the end of the line and step off with me,” to settle the argument. “I’ll let you throw the first punch, big boy!” was the passenger’s response. While this is a clear case of the misdirected anger of working people—anger

that derives from the same source—others are learning where to channel their rage.

In a recent *Globe* article entitled “Scandals Cast Shadow on State Democrats,” Matt Viser describes a moment “when Representative Denis E. Guyer was stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic on Interstate 93...his red Toyota Matrix, sporting old campaign bumper stickers and a special House of Representatives license plate meant to be an honor bestowed on elected officials. But...residents are in no mood to give much respect to those who work on Beacon Hill. One motorist pointed his middle finger squarely at Guyer. Shortly after, another motorist did the same.” While flipping the bird at politicians may make us feel better, that alone won’t challenge the injustices they pile on us in the name of government.

In December 2008, one group, StopThePikeHike.org, organized a protest of the Pike’s plans to increase tolls. According to a WBZ news report, they “called for Mass.

Pike drivers to avoid the tolls on...the anniversary of the Boston Tea Party.” However, Mayor Menino wrote them a letter warning “that the protest would create a host of problems for the city, including increased traffic on residential streets, a financial impact on residents and the business community, and a question of whether or not the MBTA had the ability to handle additional ridership.” The group cancelled their protest, but you can still learn how to avoid the tolls here: http://www.stopthepikehike.org/toll_party.html. The group did hold a march and rally at the State House on January 15, and created a petition to put a “Close the Tolls” ballot initiative to vote in 2010.

While a ballot initiative may eventually close the tolls, Massachusetts has far too many of these corrupt institutions to change them one at a time through ballot initiatives. In the spirit of Massachusetts’ tradition of disobedience to injustice, motorists might consider direct action tactics to convince MassDOT that the costs of keeping tolls open exceeds those of closing them with vehicle blockades or by refusing to pay tolls.

The creation of MassDOT does little to relieve Massachusetts’ residents of the government’s heavy economic burden. Republican leaders and spokespeople criticize the Massachusetts state legislature, which—along with the White House—is run by the Democrats. However, the only change the Republicans propose is the election of Republicans, who for the past 8 years were as guilty of corruption, inefficiency and pandering to the rich and big business as the Dems are today. They all act the same once they’re in office. Issues of corruption of government and capital will not be solved until the industries (such as transportation) are in the hands of the workers, and neighborhoods and communities make the decisions. In other words, the corruption of government can only be solved by the abolition of government. •



Protesters Voice Concern for Indigenous Massacre in Peru

By Sofia Jarrin-Thomas

A coalition of 13 grassroots organizations in Boston delivered a letter today to the Peruvian Consulate to raise concerns over the military and police aggression against a peaceful protest of indigenous people in Bagua, Peru. On June 5th, police forces opened fire on a protest of more than thirty thousand people, representing several indigenous groups, who had held a 57-day strike to contest the enactment of new laws that would open indigenous lands to the exploitation of their natural resources.

Official numbers given by the Peruvian government of those killed were 10 indigenous people and 20 policemen, but people from the ground have reported as many as 80 indigenous people dead and 100 wounded, many others missing. Real numbers are hard to estimate because police forces, according to at least two witnesses, were allegedly burning corpses and throwing them to the Marañón River from helicopters.

"I think it really shows this backward way of this entire civilization, and that we are depending on going and stealing resources from other people," said Pete from Rising Tide Boston. "We have resource colonies all over the world. From the palm oil plantations of Indonesia, to the coal fuels of Appalachia, to the oil fields of Iraq."

For months indigenous people have been mobilizing against the Free Trade Agreement signed between the US and Peru, and in particular, the enactment of presidential decrees that superseded communal ownership of ancestral lands near the Amazon. However, the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, set up by the International Labor Organization and ratified by Peru in 1994, obliges Peru to consult indigenous people in cases in which the State or a company plans to exploit the natural resources in their lands.

Susan Redlich, an environmental planner who has worked on the restoration of water resources in Massachusetts was present at the protest in Boston and said that the exploitation of already delicate lands and forests in the Amazon region should be a concern for all.

"Once an area has been degraded it is very difficult in terms of what you need to do to bring it back to its natural functions. There's often pollution involved and change in the landscape. Huge investments are needed to bring it back to a state where its ecosystem is functioning again," she said.

Susan has been to Peru many times as part

of a water development project. She said much could be learned from the indigenous people.

"First of all, they know so much about the way resources, the habitats, the water, and the elements, how all those work because they have been observing them for generations. There's so much to learn from them. And also their self-sufficiency, their lifestyle in keeping with sustaining their resources," she said, "and then their bravery, their commitment to the earth."

In Boston, protesters delivered their message to the Peruvian Consulate asking for an investigation on the deaths in Bagua and that the right of indigenous for self-determination in their ancestral land is respected. Solidarity protests have been reported in several countries and in particular, from hundreds of indigenous groups across the Americas which in the past year have coalesced into an effective grassroots movement.

Their efforts paid off.

On Tuesday, under local and international pressure the Peruvian Congress repealed two of the most controversial decrees, 1064 and 1090. Prime Minister Yehude Simon said that



Protests in Bagua, Peru

he would step down in the next few weeks over the violence and opposed remarks by President Alan Garcia that indigenous peoples are "second class citizens" who are "uninformed" about the benefits of industrial development in the region. The derogation of those two laws is indeed a victory, but the indigenous people have promised to continue the pressure until an investigation on the massacre is carried out. •

Don't look now, but there's politics on your plate.

By Adrienne

Judging by sheer numbers, concern for animal welfare is not sufficient reason for most people to reconsider their carcass-eating habits and, to be perfectly honest, that was not even a factor in why I finally went veg four years ago. I'm gonna get flamed by some of my friends for saying this, but I don't think that eating meat necessarily has to be unethical [I'm not convinced that it will ever be healthy, but that's another essay]. If you rescue your meat from dumpsters, more power to you. If you are someone who grows or hunts animals, beheads, skins, disembowels them and does whatever else it takes to get them from walking/swimming around into a form you find edible, I think there's a certain integrity to that and I don't have a bad word to say about you.

However, the overwhelming majority of U.S. carcass-eaters purchase their skeletal muscular tissue wrapped in plastic and styro-foam without ever having to think about where it came from. I am abundantly aware that not everyone has the same access to information, so I can only assume that most carcass-eaters are not aware that the meat production industry is the number one contributor to climate change, which includes soil depletion, water and air pollution, fossil fuel use, greenhouse gas emissions, and an alarming, unsustainable (ab)use of the resources which are essential to maintaining any form of life on this planet. Oh, and corporate fisheries worldwide are modestly projected to collapse before 2050.

For these reasons and more, I go into panic mode whenever someone committed to

social and environmental justice eats corporate meat. Encounters with a rash of corporate meat-eating anarchists actually inspired this piece. Again, I can't know for sure what people do and do not know about the meat industry, but I find it very difficult to reconcile or take seriously that someone who eats corporate meat really cares about world hunger, migrant workers' rights, Indigenous land rights or climate change. Entire ecosystems are demolished and people ejected from their ancestral lands to make way for factory farms. Land that could grow food to feed thousands of people is used to pen up animals that will be tortured and poisoned and will only feed about a few dozen people, without taking into account the endless acreages of arable land used to grow genetically modified crops to feed the unfortunate livestock. Factory farms and slaughterhouses provide some of the most dangerous, repulsive jobs on the planet, which are naturally filled by the most vulnerable migrant workers who can be abused by their employers with impunity.

I could seriously go on and on about the destructive impacts that corporate meat production has on the world and its denizens. But back to the question of anarchists who eat corporate meat. Why? There is not a single tenable argument to defend this participation in global devastation. Convenience, habit, tradition, culture-- none of these justify the support of an industry that perpetuates all of the above crimes and more. Price is not a legitimate argument either-- I recently watched someone pay \$10 for a plastic and styrofoam wrapped tray of skeletal muscular tissue and you're gonna tell me that's more cost effective than buying some damn grains and legumes?

The scariest argument I've ever heard is flavor. I shudder to think that someone can justify their buttressing of global degradation by appealing to the gratification of the senses. When seeking an analogy for how someone could excuse violent activity because it felt good, it should surprise no one that my mind instantly turned to sexual violence. Though I frequently reflect on the connections between meat and masculinity, I am peripherally aware that there exists an entire body of literature on the subject that I really ought to explore. Can someone make sure I read Carol J. Adams' *The Sexual Politics of Meat* before classes start back up in September? Kthxbye.

PS, please don't eat corporate meat. •

Technological Emancipation

By Michael Bauer

Prometheus, according to ancient Greek mythology, betrayed the gods. Zeus punished him for this delinquency, chaining him to a rock in the Caucasus. Every day an eagle would come and eat away at Prometheus' liver and every night Prometheus' liver would regenerate, only to be devoured anew after sunrise.

This punishment seems to imply the most severe crime. What did Prometheus do to deserve it? He dared to bring fire to the humans and teach them to maintain it. Thus he enabled them to sustain themselves independent of the goodwill of the gods, introducing them to technology.



Eagle eating Prometheus' liver

Living at the beginning of the 21st century, one is surrounded by technology. On one hand it eases many of our daily tasks. On the other hand it seems to alienate us from our surroundings. It accelerates our lives and seems to hold a firm grasp on what we are doing. Furthermore people and the planet are exploited by or for technological development. Based on the latter facts, an opposing movement has formed as part of social movements, damning technology as a machinery of oppression. Consequently, calls have been made for the destruction of technological advancements. This movement includes (neo-) Luddites and primitivists.

This essay is a refutation of primitivism.* By exploring and elaborating on the potentially liberatory or dangerous uses of technology, it will emphasize the importance of becoming emancipated. Emancipation here means being responsible and accountable rather than

abolishing what is difficult to understand.

Technology is the combination of the two Greek words: *techne* (craft) and *logia* (saying). By this root, technology is the teaching of craft and, as such, it is tightly interwoven with humanity. One of the defining characteristics of humans as a species is the construction of tools. If one recognizes use of tools as an inherent trait of our species, rejecting technology as a priori evil is rejecting humanity as a priori evil. It denies humans their basic humanity. Contrariwise, assuming that technology is a priori beneficial is equally shortsighted.

Some might say that to extend a rejection of technology to all kinds of crafts and goods is wrong and that what should be opposed is advanced technology. But where does advanced technology start? It is difficult to define the boundaries and any boundaries established will be arbitrary at best. It will be drawn as a line between what I am able to understand (simple) and what I am unable to understand (advanced). Rejecting advanced technology on the basis of one's inability to understand it seems more a display of fear than of reason.

The ethical burden of tools is double edged. Based on Heinz von Foerster's Hermeneutic principle that "the hearer, not the speaker, determines the meaning of an utterance," the ethical quality of a tool is defined by its user, not its creator. This is the first edge. The hermeneutic principle itself ignores risk. All technologies bear certain risks. Some, such as weapons technology or many branches of biotechnology, seem riskier than others. Thus, part of the ethical burden is carried by the creator. The user should be aware of both the benefits as well as the risks of any given technology and base her decision to use it upon this knowledge.

One of the objections raised against technology is its use to sustain the social order as we experience it now. The tools one uses in daily life influences one's status in society; the tools of a factory worker differ from the tools of a manager. The specific use of technology not only defines social status, but also helps perpetuate social impermeability. Changing one's social status always means learning how to handle a different technology. This has been aggravated by the introduc-

...Technology from previous page...

information technology. We now are facing a large divide between those who have access to information and those who do not. Access to technology is important because it facilitates the understanding of that technology. A technology can only be fully utilized for a purpose if a deep understanding of it exists. Inability to create a certain technology results in dependence on a third party to provide it. By limiting access to and understanding of a certain technology, hierarchical structures can be easily maintained.

Assuming mythology is created for a purpose, what would be the purpose of the Prometheus legend? It could warn people from trying to use and understand technology they are not permitted to use and understand, which could lead to an endangerment of the social structure and the enabling of people to flatten or abolish hierarchies. As stated, it's not technology which separates people, but a social mandate (in the case of Prometheus) that keeps people from understanding technologies.

Technology is not the problem; society is the problem. If we aim to change the order of society, we should also aim to broaden deep-knowledge of technology. We have to embrace technology—especially advanced technology, where a lot of work is still needed. A massive and ever increasing amount of free software currently exists, enabling people to use and adapt them for their own purposes. Participatory communication infrastructures are popping up in many places around the world. Free hardware and production devices are lacking, but creation of hacker spaces around the world has eased this problem and rapid prototyping devices built by enthusiasts enable micro fabrication. Many of these projects hold the potential to facilitate the creation of alternative economic systems and mutually beneficial social projects. The downside to this is that, for the most part, all of these projects are currently maintained by enthusiasts with some degree of social and economic privilege. Access to liberatory technology must be broadened to those most in need of social change. Embracing technology will emancipate us from the ones providing it. We can have a free society using these tools if we are open to learning and willing to understand. It may not be easy, but it is possible. However, we must never forget that social problems cannot be solved by means of technology. Social problems can only be solved by social means.

* Though the full implications of primitivism are beyond the scope of this essay, a fairly thorough treatment can be found at:

http://www.anarkismo.net/newswire.php?story_id=1451 •

Calendar: Get Involved

Monthly Events:

Every Monday:

Papercut Zine Library meeting, 7:30pm, 45 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge

First Tuesday of Every Month:

BAAM meeting, 7pm, Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston

Second Tuesday of Every Month:

Anarchist Black Cross meeting (defense and prison abolition group), 8pm, 45 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge

Every Wednesday:

Free Radical Film Nights, 7pm, at the Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston

Second Sunday of Every Month:

2pm Industrial Workers of the World meeting. Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston

Third Sunday of Every Month:

BAAM work and activity day, 1pm. Locations being arranged, email Jake at trenchesfullofpoets@riseup.net for info

Every Friday:

Food Not Bombs free community meal, 4-6pm, Boston Common, Park Street T Stop, Boston

July 4

Anarchist Picnic: Featuring a New Reading Group! Noon-2pm, Followed by the Socialist Party's Annual Anti-Capitalist BBQ. Brighton section of the Charles River! Here's a Google map: <http://tinyurl.com/5nnws5> Finish "Sacco and Vanzetti: the Anarchist Background." Rain location: the Lucy Parsons Center, 2pm.

July 5

Rootbeer Floats and Prison Action News Mailing Party! Join the Boston Anarchist Black Cross for a day of fun and productivity, supporting prisoners! 2PM at Arsenal Hall, Brighton. Email Lil_Red@riseup.net for directions.

July 8

Film Screening. Boston Anarchist Black Cross presents "Up the Ridge," a documentary about a prison in a former minetown. 7PM, Lucy Parsons Center.

July 15

Laid-off Harvard Workers Speak with Allston/Brighton Residents. 5:30-8pm at the Honan-Allston Library, N. Harvard St, Allston. Organized by the Allston/Brighton Neighborhood Assembly and the Harvard No Layoffs Campaign. More info: harvard-nolayoffs.blogspot.com

July 24th

Benefit Concert for Laid-off Harvard Workers. 6pm, Papercut Zine Library, 45 Mnt Auburn St, Cambridge. Last show at the PZL for these bands!

Protests in Iran



Calendar: Get Involved

Featuring: Evan Greer, Jake and the Infernal Machine, The Cliches (Reunion!) and more TBA.

July 25

Really Really Free Market, Allston. 11AM-4PM, at Ringer Park, behind the Jackson Mann School in Allston. Bring stuff to share, take free stuff home! Enjoy games, music, food and the summer with the Allston/Brighton Neighborhood Assembly. Myspace.com/DefendAllstonBrighton

August 15

Boston Anarchist Prom: 6pm. Boston's Anarchists invite you to an informal formal to have a ball! Defy the dominant culture! Get fancied up and come dance and play with us! Come alone, in a pair, in a triad, bring your kids, *just come! Drag encouraged. There will be food, cheesy photography, live music and a DJ. Community Church Boston in Copley [accessible space!] at 565 Boylston Admission \$5-20 sliding scale. Proceeds will benefit the BAAM's outreach projects and the legal defense and prisoner support work of the Boston ABC. *if childcare is needed, write us and we will make it happen! Direct all inquiries to cyd.grayson@gmail.com

August 22

Allston Squirtgun Day begins at high noon at the intersection of Harvard and Brighton Ave. Bring your weapon of choice (squirtdun, water balloons) and join in the fun! Rumors have surfaced of the appearance of a revolutionary anarchist squirtgun militia... Organized by the Clone Collective. www.myspace.com/allstonsquirtgunday

August 23

Sacco and Vanzetti Memorial March. 1pm, Copley Square. Join the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society for the fourth annual march to remember the fallen Italian anarchist workers and to continue their struggle for revolution. No Deportations, No State Repression! www.SaccoandVanzetti.org

September 5-6

Northeast Pre-G20 Meet Up in Boston! We all know the G20 needs smashed, it's just a matter of doing it responsibly and informedly and making good connections with our comrades beforehand. Fear not! The anarchists of Boston and Pittsburgh are combining their inimitable powers to bring you a weekend of learning, strategizing and schmoozing [without the boozing]. Come to the Community Church Boston, 565 Boylston in Copley Square [accessible space!] For housing, contact Clara at lil_red@riseup.net. For general event inquiries, contact cyd.grayson@gmail.com.

September 24-25

The G20 Dares to Challenge Pittsburgh! Join BAAM and other Northeast Anarchist Network comrades to smash the G20 in Pittsburgh, PA. The G20

is a summit of the 20 most economically powerful governments, meeting to plan the future of the global economy. Pittsburgh, on the other hand, is a city of immense poverty, unemployment, and well-organized anarchists! <http://resistg20.org/>

October

Month of Anarchy! A series of educational and outreach events sponsored by the Northeast Anarchist Network. Keep an eye out as these develop in your city!



Graffiti from Palestine

Help us save trees! (paper and money)
For a free email subscription, contact
Jake: trenchesfullofpoets@riseup.net

Contributors to this month's issue:

-Adrienne
-Michael Bauer
-Dykonoclast
-Jake Carman
-Joseph Caye
-John Cleary
-Sofia Jarrin-Thomas
-Jason Lydon
-Marie
-Molly
-Paul
-Jeff Reinhardt
-Sublett



What is Anarchism?

Anarchism is the theory and practice of a human society organizing without hierarchy, authority and oppression. This means that all people have equal access to the decision-making process and to the products of their collective labor. Anarchy can be described as true, direct democracy. It is horizontal: i.e. workers working together without bosses, neighbors organizing housing and neighborhoods without landlords, and people making decisions without politicians. There are many different ideas on how to get there and what exactly it will look like. We can talk all we want, but only a truly free and revolutionary people will be able to decide what their revolution will look like. So comrades, let's get to work!

WWW.BAAMBOSTON.ORG

BOSTON ANARCHIST'S

Reading Group - At the Anarchist Picnic!

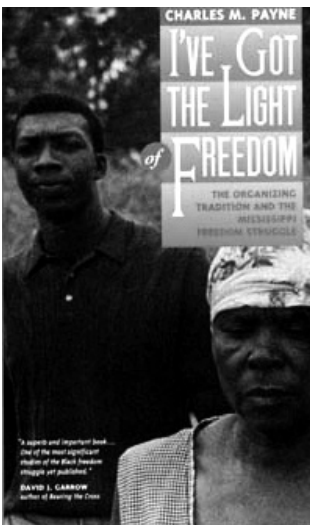
Saturday, August 8, 1pm
Castle Island
Accessible by bus, check out
mbta.com trip planner

Think urban anarchists don't have anything to learn from a rural movement that registered people to vote? Prepare to have your mind blown! Join us in reading excerpts from Charles M. Payne's *I've Got the Light of Freedom* which explores the strategies, successes and failures of community organizing that went down in Mississippi as part of the Freedom Movement.



Email cyd.grayson@gmail.com for a free pdf of the excerpts.

In case of rain:
Meet at 2pm at the Lucy Parsons
Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston



www.baamboston.org

